

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nucleic acid at least 95% identical to one encoding a mammalian CTLA protein or fragment thereof.

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2. The nucleic acid of Claim 1, wherein said encoding nucleic acid comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

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3. A substantially pure primate CTLA-8 protein or peptide thereof.

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4. The protein or peptide of Claim 3, wherein said protein or peptide comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10.

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5. The protein or peptide of Claim 4, wherein said protein or peptide induces a cell to secrete an inflammatory mediator.

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6. The protein or peptide of Claim 5, wherein said inflammatory mediator is IL-6; IL-8; and/or PGE2.

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7. A composition comprising a protein of Claim 3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

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8. An antibody which specifically binds a mammalian CTLA-8 protein or peptide thereof.

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9. The antibody of Claim 8, wherein said antibody is raised against a peptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10.

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10. The antibody of Claim 9, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

11. The antibody of Claim 10, wherein said antibody blocks a CTLA-8 induced secretion of an inflammatory mediator.

5 12. The antibody of Claim 10, wherein said inflammatory mediator is IL-6; IL-8; and/or PGE2.

13. An antibody of Claim 10, wherein said antibody is labeled.

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14. A kit comprising:

- a) a nucleic acid at least 95% identical to one encoding a mammalian CTLA-8 protein or peptide;
- b) a substantially pure mammalian CTLA-8 protein or fragment; or
- c) an antibody or receptor which specifically binds a mammalian CTLA-8 protein.

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15. The kit of Claim 14, wherein said encoding nucleic acid comprises a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9.

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16. The kit of Claim 14, wherein said protein or fragment is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a protein or peptide from a mammal, including a rat or human;
- b) a protein or peptide comprising at least one polypeptide segment of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10; and
- c) a protein or peptide which exhibits a post-translational modification pattern distinct from a natural mammalian CTLA-8 protein.

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17. The kit of Claim 14 comprising an antibody or receptor, wherein:

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- a) said CTLA-8 protein from a mammal, including a mouse or human;

- b) said antibody is raised against a peptide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10;
- c) said antibody is a monoclonal antibody; or
- d) said antibody is labeled.

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18. A method of modulating physiology or development of a cell comprising contacting said cell with an agonist or antagonist of a mammalian CTLA-8 protein.

10 19. A method of Claim 18, wherein said antagonist is an antibody against a mammalian CTLA-8 protein.

15 20. A method of modulating CTLA-8 induced secretion of an inflammatory mediator from a cell in a tissue comprising the step of contacting said tissue with:

- a) an antibody which specifically binds to a mammalian CTLA-8; or
- b) a substantially pure CTLA-8 protein or peptide thereof.

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21. The method of Claim 20, wherein said inflammatory mediator is selected from the group consisting of: IL-6; IL-8; and/or PGE2.

25 22. The method of Claim 20, wherein said cell is selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a synovial cell;
- b) an endothelial cell;
- c) an epithelial cell;
- d) a fibroblast cell; or
- e) a carcinoma cell.

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